

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 21, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Matthew Tevis Passaro pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to an indictment charging him with failing to register as a sex offender, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250, a felony. Passaro entered his guilty plea before Magistrate Judge Leo S. Papas, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Roger T. Benitez, at the time of sentencing. This is the first ever conviction for this federal offense in San Diego.

On July 27, 2006, President Bush signed into law the “Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.” Part of the Act included the “Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act” (“SORNA”) codified as Title 18, United States Code, Section 2250, which makes it a federal felony offense to fail to register as a sex offender and travel in interstate or foreign commerce. The Act also mandated the creation of a national sex offender registry accessible via the internet and requires every jurisdiction to maintain a sex offender registry with certain information set forth in SORNA, including name, aliases, address, social

security number, place of employment and/or school, vehicle information. The purpose of the law is to track the whereabouts of convicted sex offenders throughout the United States.

According to court records, Passaro admitted that he was previously convicted in New Jersey of sexual assault on a minor who was between 13 and 16 years of age, he traveled to San Diego in March 2007, he knowingly failed to register as a sex offender in San Diego, and he knowingly failed to update his registration in New Jersey. Passaro was ultimately arrested in West Palm Beach, Florida in July 2007, and returned to San Diego to face prosecution.

Sentencing for Passaro is scheduled for June 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Benitez.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 07cr2308-BEN

MATTHEW T. PASSARO

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section and 2250 (Failing to Register as a Sex Offender)

Penalties: Up to 10 years' incarceration and \$250,000 fine, a minimum of 5 years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and registration as a sex offender.

AGENCIES

United States Marshals Service
San Diego Police Department
San Diego Harbor Police